

What is claimed is:

1. A method of breeding an animal line for experimental use, comprising:
  - (a) preselecting a first population comprising a plurality of conspecific animals of breeding age;
  - (b) preselecting a plurality of breeding periods of varying lengths;
  - (c) arbitrarily assigning one of the preselected breeding periods to each animal of the first population; and
  - (d) allowing each animal of the first population to breed only during its assigned breeding period.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein arbitrarily assigning a breeding period in step (c) is accomplished by a random method or a pseudo-random method.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the preselected breeding periods are each bounded by a first chronological age and an older second chronological age of the animal.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the preselected breeding periods are each bounded by a first calendar date and a later second calendar date.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the preselected breeding periods assigned to an animal of the first population has no retirement date.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein a plurality of breeding periods assigned to animals of the first population have no retirement date.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a member of an order selected from the group consisting of Carnivora, Primates, Rodentia, Insectivora, and Lagomorpha.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the animal is a member the order Rodentia.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the animal is a mouse.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein at least one preselected breeding period is longer than 8 months.